

House Republican Press Release

January 4, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Hovey Appointed GOP Leader on General Assembly's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee



House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-86th District, has reappointed state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112th District, to the Advisory Council for Special Education.

"I'd like to thank Bob Ward for reappointing me to this important panel. Special education is one of my top concerns as a legislator and an education professional. One of the most important challenges facing the General Assembly over the next two years will be to enable local school districts to continue providing quality special education services while easing the burden on local property taxpayers," Representative Hovey said.

"With special education expenses continuing to rise, the need for the state to increase its share of the cost to Connecticut's school districts is becoming more critical every year," Representative Hovey said. "If towns like Monroe and Newtown are to continue to provide quality education for all students and ensure they are fully prepared to enter the work force or go on to college, the General Assembly's top priority must be to adopt a more equitable formula for distributing special education funding to Connecticut's suburban and rural communities."

"I hope that your service in this position will continue to be challenging and satisfying. I know that the talent and expertise you bring to it will be of great value and service to our state and its citizens," Representative Ward said in a letter to Representative Hovey informing her of her reappointment to the council. "On behalf of the people of Connecticut, please accept my thanks for your willingness to once again accept the challenge of public service. My congratulations on your reappointment to this important post."

As House Minority Leader, Representative Ward is responsible under the law that established the Advisory Council for Special Education for naming one member to the board from the state House of Representatives.

The Advisory Council for Special Education is responsible for:

- Advising the state Department of Education on unmet needs in educating students with disabilities.
- Periodically reviewing the laws, regulations, standards and guidelines pertaining to special education and recommending to the General Assembly and the state Board of Education any changes it considers necessary.
- Commenting on any new or revised regulations, standards and guidelines proposed for issuance.
- Working with the state Board of Education in the development of any state plan for providing special education.
- Commenting publicly on any procedures necessary for distributing federal funds received under the Education of the Handicapped Act.
- Assisting the state Department of Education in developing and reporting such data and evaluations as may be conducted under provisions of the Education of the Handicapped Act.
- Reporting recommendations for changes in the special education laws to the General Assembly.